

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION ON WATER

In line with the Secretary General recommendations at the occasion of the 49th session of the CSW, specifically to invest in infrastructure to reduce women's time burden, including women's access to water and guarantee women's access to land and right to inheritance, we the Women's Major Groups, underscore the following concrete actions:

1. Ensure that all institutions and programmes in water and sanitation make women a central factor in their policies, programs and budgets. In order to achieve this, we recommend using tools such as gender-disaggregated data, gender analysis, gender responsive budgeting initiatives, gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems and gender sensitive indicators.
2. Mobilize and in line with 'Micro Summit' criteria, allocate funds in form of grants and loans to facilitate women's capacity building in the water and sanitation sector including infrastructure maintenance and management, as well as scaling up success stories such as rain harvesting and watershed management.
3. Ensure women's active participation in the dialogues, partnerships and consultations with governments, private sector, international development partners and decision-makers. Specifically, women should be involved and consulted in setting up of innovative financing mechanisms such as the Global Water Fund Initiative
4. Sanitation and water should not be considered as separate issues. Both must be linked in all policy proposals, designs and implementation. a.-eLL nw- 4 e y.-
5. Adoption of an ecosystem approach hence intervening in degradation processes with wide implication on global environmental health
6. Prompt implementation of policies that promote and favor women's rights to access water through relevant legal reforms including land rights which enable women to manage and control water resources.
7. Mainstream pro-women strategies in Integrated Water Resources Management Plans emphasizing women fully involvement in programme and project development, implementation and evaluation.

Finally, women underscore that access to water is a human right. There are many examples from several parts of the world that show that privatization of water resources and services have had advance effects on poor women. It is established that when profits comes before people, poor women are the victim. Therefore, women caution privatization of water resources and are in favor of strengthening public utilities.